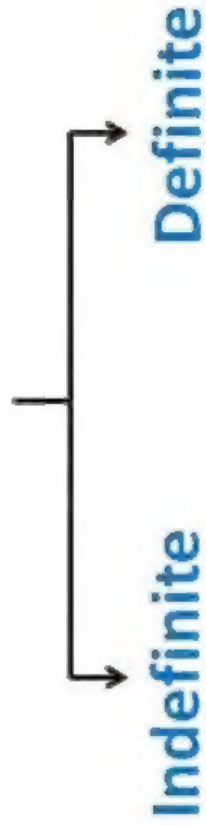


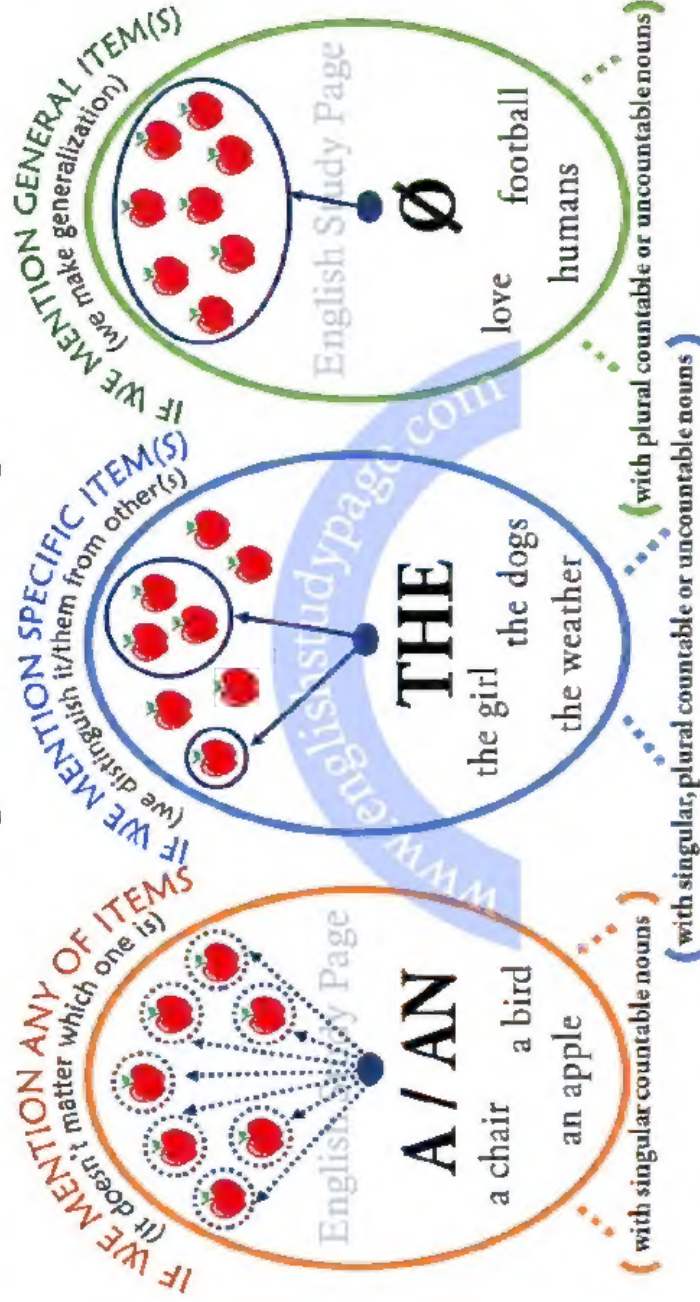
# Articles



(General Things) (Specific Things)



## [ ARTICLES ]

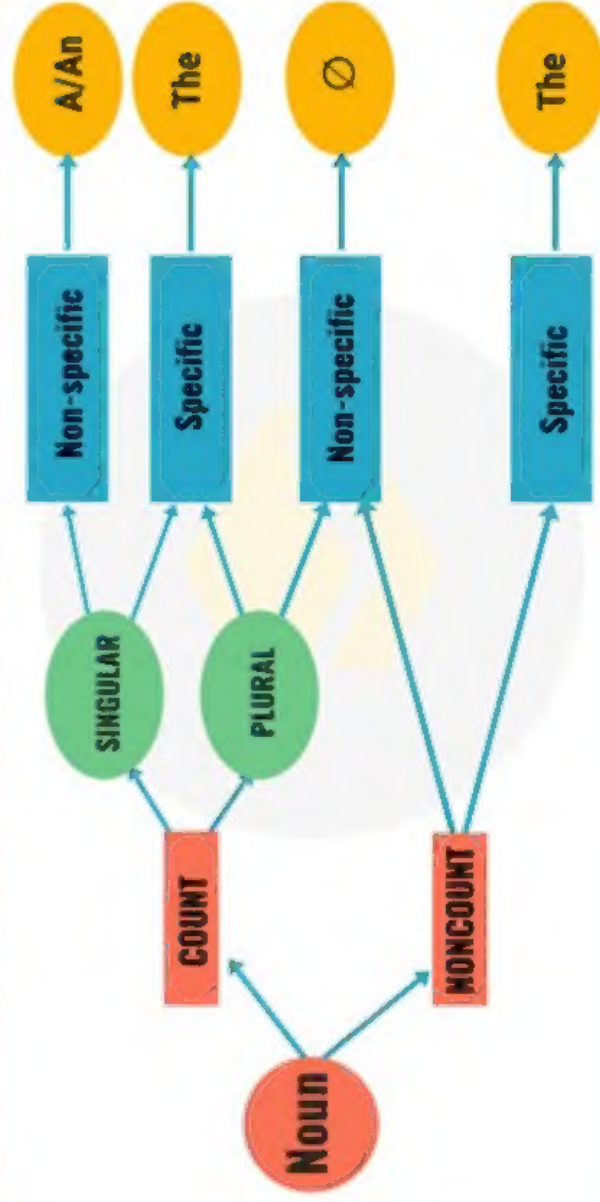


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## COUNT, NONCOUNT NOUNS WITH ARTICLES





# A - AN

## The difference between A and AN

**A** and **AN** have the same meaning. **A** and **AN** are indefinite articles. The difference depends on the sound at the beginning of the next word.

When the next word starts with a  
**CONSONANT** SOUND

**A**

a book a frog an apple an orange  
a car a lemon an egg an umbrella  
a dog a truck an insect an actor

When the next word starts with a  
**VOWEL** SOUND

**AN**

**BE CAREFUL!** The **SOUND** of the letter is important

a house BUT an hour The **H** at the beginning of **hour** is **silent**.  
an uncle BUT a university The **U** at the beginning of **university** sounds like **YOU**.

This rule applies to all words after **A** or **AN** (including adjectives, adverbs...)

a cold day an easy lesson  
a very crazy person an interesting class

## THE ARTICLE "THE" IN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES



### POINTS OF COMPASS

The North, the South,  
the East, and the West

*The northernmost point  
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## Indefinite Article

The **indefinite article** tells us something is non-specific.



The **definite article** tells us something is specific.





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**A**

PRECEDES SINGULAR, COUNTABLE NOUNS THAT HAVE A **CONSONANT** SOUND

B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z

a book a hat a mouse

a tiger a yacht

**AN**

PRECEDES SINGULAR, COUNTABLE NOUNS THAT HAVE A **VOWEL** SOUND

A, E, I, O, U

an apple an egg an igloo

an octopus an umbrella

## The Definite and Indefinite Articles

The definite and indefinite articles come under the global name "determiners."

### The Indefinite Article "A" and "An"

a + a consonant sound



an + a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u)



a car a policeman a sofa an artist an astronaut an eagle

We use "a" before "u" when we pronounce it with a "y" sound (a uniform) BUT (an umbrella).

We use "an" before "h" when it is silent (an hour) BUT (a horse) and before "s" when the sound is pronounced as "es" (He's an SAS pilot)

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and before “s” when the sound is pronounced as “es” (He’s an SAS pilot)

# INDEFINITE ARTICLES

a

The article A is used before words which begin with consonant sounds.

- "He is a teacher"
- "I bought a new watch"
- "I saw a bear at the zoo"

Remember that "A" means "one" or "a single". You cannot use "A" with plural nouns.



"I saw a monkeys at the zoo today"

"I saw monkeys at the zoo today"



an

The article AN is used before words which begin with vowel sounds.

- "He is an actor"
- "She didn't get an invitation"
- "I ate an apple"

The same rule applies for "AN" with use of plural nouns.



"I watched an movies last night"

"I watched movies last night"







# INDEFINITE ARTICLE~A - AN

ENGLISH  
GRAMMAR

"A" or "an" is used to talk about things which are not particular. Usually, these are things that haven't been mentioned before or that the listener is unfamiliar with.



**RULES:** Usage is on the basis of sound

'A' is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound. **Consonant letters** in the English alphabet are:

B,C,D,F,G,H,J,K,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,V,W,X,Y,Z.

Examples: A boy, a cat, a dog, a fight, a gym, a horse, a joke, a kite, a lion, a mirror, etc.

'An' is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound. **Vowel letters** in the English alphabet are A, E, I, O, U.

Examples: An apple, an elephant, an idiot, an orange, an umbrella, etc.

**EXCEPTION:**



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# [ ARTICLES ]

IF WE MENTION ANY OF ITEMS  
(It doesn't matter which one is)



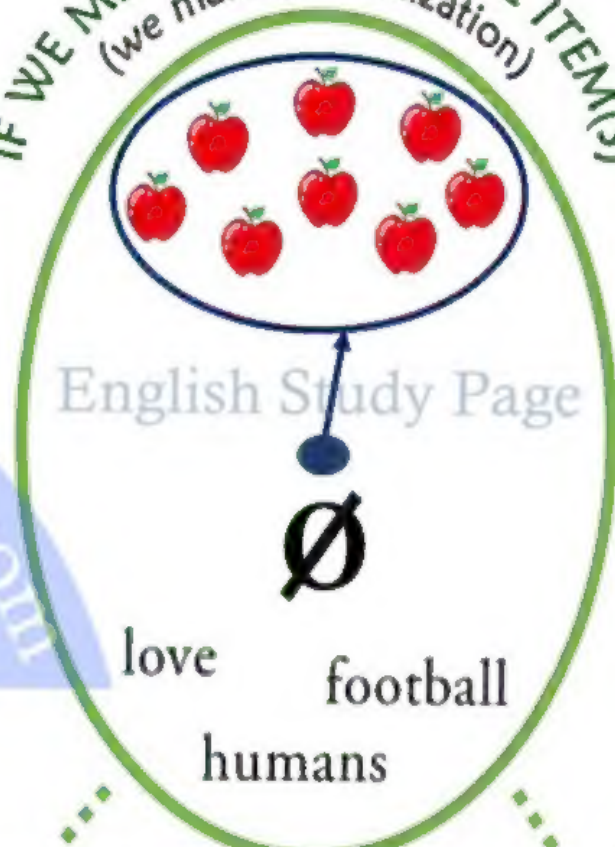
(with singular countable nouns)

IF WE MENTION SPECIFIC ITEM(S)  
(we distinguish it/them from other(s))



(with singular, plural countable or uncountable nouns)

IF WE MENTION GENERAL ITEM(S)  
(we make generalization)



(with plural countable or uncountable nouns)

# HOW TO USE ARTICLES

## The the definite article

VS

## A/An the indefinite article

points to specific/particular nouns

use

defines non-specific, singular nouns



Look! I flew **the** kite.

This sentence refers to a particular kite.

**The** kids helped me fly it.

refers to specific kids.

The definite article is also used in the second mention of a noun.

Lily loves her cat and orange kite. When **the** cat tore **the** kite, she got mad and cried.

The definite article is used to refer to the same cat and kite mentioned in the first sentence.

**The** is used with noncount nouns.

ideas, qualities, things that can't be counted.

✓ He stole **the** money from me.

refers to a particular money

✓ He stole money from me.

non-specific money; no article needed

with  
noncount  
nouns

Join **a/an** with countable units to define noncount nouns.

✗ He stole **a** money from me.



He stole **a** bag of money from me.

countable unit

We saw **a** kite fly by.

talks about a non-specific kite



**An** owl can turn its head up to 270°.

refers to any owl

**A**

**a** is used with nouns that begin with a vowel sound.  
a person; a car; a ham; a ukulele; a uniform; a U.S. army

these words begin with the vowel sound 'yoo'

**An**

**an** is used with nouns that begin with a consonant sound.

an epic; an ark; an order; an honor; an SOS; an heirloom

first sound is 'oh'

first sound is 'eh'





# DEFINITE ARTICLE: **THE**

The **definite article** is the word "**the**". It is used before a noun to specify it as something previously considered.



## When to Use "THE":

- Use "the" after you have talked about it the first time
  - This is a dog. The dog is brown.
- Use "the" when the person you are talking to already knows what you are talking about.
  - I am going to the bank.
  - There is someone knocking at the door. It must be the computer repairman.